



## Editor's Note

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I'd like to begin by introducing myself to readers of the *Great Plains Sociologist*. My name is Laura Colmenero-Chilberg. I am a Professor of Sociology at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. I've been involved with the Great Plains Sociological Association and its publication since the 1990's when I was a doctoral student at South Dakota State University. It is with some trepidation I take over responsibility for *GPS* from a series of editors who have produced an outstanding publication primarily showcasing scholars in our region. The most recent of these editors, Gary Goreham, has left behind big shoes to fill, but I'll do my best to maintain the same quality publication as those before me.

New editor, so a bit of a new look too. Keeping to the Great Plains theme, we have just updated the look a little bit. I hope you like the changes, and please feel free to email me with any comments about it, or anything else about the *GPS*, at [laura.chilberg@bhsu.edu](mailto:laura.chilberg@bhsu.edu).

Another new element for *GPS* is the starting of a thematically focused issue during the summer. We will start this next summer with a special issue that will focus on the impact of the Bakken on the region. If you have ideas for themes for these special issues, please let us know!

This issue provides us with some very interesting articles. Boyd Littrell, Larry T. Reynolds, and Rachel Campbell propose "a framework for analyzing the impact of social change on universities" (11) in "Bureaucracy, Demography, and Midwest Sociology." Next up is Ronald Ferguson's investigation of race and identity development in "Mixed Feelings: Identity Development of Biracial People." In the third article presented in this issue, "Understanding the Importance of Leadership in Rural Communities," Owino Jonix, Mariah Bartholomay, and Mitch Calkins develop a better understanding of how leaders emerge, the kinds of activities in which they are involved, and how they address leadership challenges faced in rural communities.

The journal finishes with a series of Book Reviews which examine three current publications that could be used in the classroom: *Assigned: Life with Gender*, *American Taboo: The Forbidden Words, Unspoken Words, and the Secret Morality of Popular Culture*, and *Evicted: Poverty and Property in the American*

*City.*

As always, we're looking for papers to include in *GPS*. Research articles, pedagogical issues, teaching ideas, visual sociology, and any other kinds of scholarly works focusing on Sociology are invited including letters to the editor!

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Great Plains Sociologist*.

Laura